From:	Carol Agate
To:	City Council
Subject:	BDS resolution
Date:	Wednesday, April 18, 2018 1:34:33 PM

To the members of the Cambridge City Council:

This letter is a request that the Council members reject the BDS resolution being brought before you on April 23. Opposing this resolution is not a statement that you agree with everything Israel does. But supporting the resolution does say that you agree with the biased, exaggerated statements made by the BDS movement and will be interpreted as signing on to their campaign to challenge Israel's right to exist.

As so often happens with the BDS movement, they are trying to sneak this resolution through with a minimum of public awareness. But if the Council should pass it, an action by Cambridge against Israel will be widely publicized. The "facts" they present are exaggerations, and ignore the real fact that since Israel took steps to close their borders the frequent incidents of suicide bombers killing civilians in markets, buses, and schools have been stopped.

The BDS movement is cleverly bringing this resolution to a liberal city, knowing there are organizations that have so much concern for the plight of the Palestinians that their resolution may appeal to those who haven't studied both sides of the issue. They have switched from attempting a widespread boycott to focusing on one company. They know it is easier to appeal to liberals if they can ask that a corporation be boycotted rather than placing the blame directly on the world's only Jewish country.

Yes, Israel is flawed. But what country is perfect? The settlements are wrong, and should be stopped. But this resolution will do nothing to encourage Israel to end them. The only feasible solution to the dilemma in the Middle East is to create two separate states. Boycotting companies for their presence in Israel is not the way to accomplish that.

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